REMARKS

This response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated February 9, 2005. Claims 1-20 are pending the patent application. Claims 1, 7, 8 and 14 have been amended. No new matter has been added by any of the amendments made herein. Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,085,976 to Sehr ("Sehr"). Applicants respectfully submit, for the reasons set forth below that the rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the patentability of claims 1-20.

Of the pending claims at issue, claims 1, 7, 8 and 14 are the independent claims. Amended independent claim 1 recites a right-information distribution method including the steps of generating right information and verification information for authenticating the validity of a portable electronic device when the right information is stored in said portable electronic device. Then generating a right code by encrypting the right information and the verification information, wherein said right code is provided to a user offline. The method then includes inputting the right code into said portable electronic device independently of the connection status of said portable electronic device, the generated right code being represented in an audible and/or visible form to input the right code into said portable electronic device by a user. The method further includes decrypting the right code inputted into the portable electronic device and using the verification information to authenticate the right information based on the decrypted right code. The method also includes storing the authenticated right information in said portable electronic device.

Amended independent claim 7 recites a right-information distribution method for transferring right information from a first portable electronic device to a second portable electronic device, said right-information distribution method including the steps of generating the right information and verification information for authenticating the validity of said first portable electronic device when the right information is stored in said first portable electronic device. Then generating a first right code by encrypting the right information and the verification information, wherein said right code is provided to a user offline. The method further includes the step of enabling the user to input the first right code and identification number of said second portable electronic device into said first portable electronic device independently of the

connection status of said first portable electronic device, the generated right code being represented in an audible and/or visible form to input the right code into said first portable electronic device by a user. Then confirming the input first right code and the input identification number and invalidating the first right code and generating a second right code, wherein said second right code is provided to the user offline. The method additionally includes enabling the user to input the second right code into said second portable electronic device independently of the connection status of said second portable electronic device, the generated right code being represented in an audible and/or visible form to input the right code into said second portable electronic device by a user. The method further includes the step of decoding the offline-provided second right code inputted into the portable electronic device and authenticating the decoded second right code. The method then includes storing the right information included in the authenticated second right code in said second portable electronic device.

Amended independent claim 8 recites an information distribution system that includes a portable electronic device for a user and an information management apparatus for storing both information on a predetermined right and information corresponding to said portable electronic device, the second information indicating to whom a right belongs The information distribution system manages the location of said right by updating the right information stored by said information management apparatus and the information indicating to whom said right belongs. The information management apparatus includes an information holding means for holding the right information, and an access means for recording the transfer of said right to said user by accessing said information holding means and for updating the right information held by said information holding means. Apparatus further includes an encryption means for generating encrypted information by using a code unique to said portable electronic device to encrypt the information indicating to whom said right belongs to be in an offline providable form. The apparatus additional includes an information providing means for providing said user with the encrypted information so that the encrypted information passes through an offline channel at least once. The portable electronic device comprises an input means for accepting the input of the encrypted information into said portable electronic device independently of the connection status of said portable electronic device, the generated encrypted information represented in an

audible and/or visible form to input the encrypted information into said portable electronic device by a user. The device further includes a decryption means for decrypting the encrypted information using said unique code and outputting the information indicating to whom said right belongs. The device additionally includes a recording means for recording the output information indicating to whom said right belongs; and information output means for using a predetermined access means to output the recorded information indicating to whom said right belongs.

Amended independent claim 14 recites an information management method for, by updating right information held by an information management apparatus and by recording in a portable electronic device information indicating to whom said right belongs, managing said right so as to be exercised when said portable electronic device is with a user. The information management method controls said information management apparatus to perform the steps of generating encrypted information to be in an offline providable form by using a code unique to said portable electronic device to encrypt the information indicating to whom said right belongs. The method further includes providing said user with the encrypted information so that the encrypted information passes through an offline channel at least once. Additionally, the method includes inputting said encrypted information into said portable electronic device independently of the connection status of said portable electronic device, the generated encrypted information represented in an audible and/or visible form to input the encrypted information into said portable electronic device by a user.

Accordingly, claims 1, 7, 8 and 14 have been amended to include, in part, inputting the right code into said portable electronic device independently of the connection status of said portable electronic device, the generated right code being represented in an audible and/or visible form to input the right code into said portable electronic device by a user. See, for example, pg. 38, ln. 21 through pg. 39, ln. 14. Applicants submit that Sehr fails to disclose or suggest same. For example, Sehr fails to disclose or suggest the use of a generated right code being represented in an audible form anywhere in the specification.
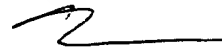
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the anticipation rejections with respect to claims 1-20 be reconsidered and the rejections be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of same.

Respectfully submitted,

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